Uniform Housing Tax

227. SHRIMATI N.P. DURGA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the National Draft Housing Policy has suggested a uniform housing tax for residential units;

(b) whether the Policy also recommended for exempting rental income from the income tax;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) what are the other major recommendations made by the Policy; and

(e) what action Government have contemplated on those recommendations?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) to (e) The Cabinet Note on the draft National Urban Housing & Habitat Policy, 2005 has been circulated by the Ministry of Urban Employment & Poverty Alleviation, to various Departments for eliciting their views/suggestions. The drafts Policy will be formalized after approval of the Cabinet Note by the Union Cabinet.

Splitting of fixed deposits for avoiding tax

228. SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOOT: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that anti-tax evasion measures envisaged in Budget 2005-06 to track those who split fixed deposits to avoid paying tax have not worked as anticipated;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether Government are re-working on new set of rules; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) to (d) No, Sir. The anti-tax evasion measures introduced in the Budget 2005-06 to track those who split fixed deposits to avoid paying tax have come into force from the 1st June, 2005. Thereafter, the relevant rules and forms have been notified requiring furnishing of Quarterly Returns giving therein the particulars of payment